
Vol. IV.] Saturday, January 31, 1818. [No. 19.

AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

The Society for Colonizing the Free People of Colour held its first anniversary on Thursday, the first day of January, 1818, in the Chamber of the house of Representatives; and it will be worthy of note, if on no other account, from the fame and talents of the individuals, whose influence and exertions have been blended to achieve the objects of the society. Nor can any subject more justly ennoble the efforts of genius, than the interests of an institution, grasping so wide a field of patriotism and humanity. But to those patrons of it, by whose gracious endeavours it was begun and advanced, it must have been eminently gratifying to find, in the report of the proceedings of the past year, such abundant proofs of its prosperity and improvement. The concurrence of every part of the country to strengthen and establish it, leaves no doubt that the warmest wishes of the philanthropist will be satisfied with the success of its issue. The succeeding publications, however, will best illustrate the views and resources of the Society.

The meeting was opened by the Honourable Bushrod Washington, with the following perspicuous and elegant

ADDRESS.

“It is with peculiar satisfaction that I meet the founders and patrons of the American Colonization Society, after the experience of a year has ascertained that their wise and benevolent purpose will be seconded by the voice of our common country.

From every quarter of the United States the aspirations of good men have been breathed to Heaven for the success of our future labours.

The resolution of Virginia, soliciting the aid of the General Government in effecting a similar object, which had passed the popular branch of her Legislature by a very large majority before the organization of this Society, received, shortly after, the almost unanimous sanction of her Senate.

Auxiliary Societies have been formed in many parts of the country, and in the populous cities of New-York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, for the purpose of co-operating with the parent society established at the seat of the General Government; and many similar associations await only the measures which the President of the United States may be expected to take, in pursuance of the request of Virginia, to embody themselves, and to combine the resources of the Union for the completion of our comprehensive and benevolent designs.

Among a small but opulent society of slaveholders in Virginia, a subscription has been raised, by the zealous exertions of a few individuals, of such magnitude as to illustrate the extent of the funds which we may hope hereafter to command, and to induce a

confident hope that our labours will be rewarded by the willing contributions of a generous and enlightened people.

Other public spirited individuals have foreborne to make similar efforts, until the success of our preparatory measures shall have been clearly ascertained.

The Society have engaged two agents to explore the western coast of Africa, and to collect such information as may assist the government of the United States in selecting a suitable district on that continent for the proposed settlement. The performance of this preliminary duty has been confided to Samuel J. Mills and Ebenezer Burgess, gentlemen possessing all the qualifications requisite for the important trust confided to them; and their report may reasonably be expected before the next annual meeting of the Society.

The addition which has recently been made to our stock of knowledge of that continent, to which every eye is directed as the proper theatre of our future labours, is highly encouraging to that enlarged and beneficent plan, which associates the political emancipation and future comfort of an unfortunate class of men, with the civilization and the happiness of an afflicted, oppressed, and degraded quarter of our globe.

Amidst these encouraging prospects, I cannot forbear a momentary tribute of regret to the memory of a man, to whom Africa is indebted for a vindication of her capacity for moral and intellectual improvement, and the world for an illustrious example of disinterested benevolence. This event is the more to be deplored, as the death of captain Paul Cuffee occurred after his usefulness had been recently manifested, by the restoration of fifty of his countrymen to the land of their forefathers; an act which must afford to every christian society fresh cause of gratitude to that God who inspired this generous African to execute the counsels of universal benevolence.

An effort has been unfortunately made to prejudice the minds of the free people of colour against this institution, which had its origin, it is believed, in an honest desire to promote their happiness. A suggestion has been made to them, which this society disclaims by the terms of its constitution, that they are to be constrained to migrate to the country which may be selected for the seat of our colony. No suspicion can be more unfounded. It is sanctioned by no declarations or acts of this society, from which alone our intentions can be candidly inferred.

As little can be apprehended by the proprietor; who will not voluntarily avail himself of the opportunity, which this settlement will afford him, of emancipating his slaves without injury to his country. The effect of this institution, if its prosperity shall equal our wishes, will be alike propitious to every interest of our domestic society; and should it lead, as we may fairly hope it will, to the slow but gradual abolition of slavery, it will wipe from our political institutions the only blot which stains them; and in palliation of which we shall not be at liberty to plead the excuse of

moral necessity, until we shall have honestly exerted all the means which we possess for its extinction.

In the magnificent plans now carrying on for the improvement and happiness of mankind in many parts of the world, we cannot but discern the interposition of that Almighty power who alone could inspire and crown with success these great purposes. But, amongst them all, there is perhaps none upon which we may more confidently implore the blessings of heaven than that in which we are associated. Whether we consider the grandeur of the object, and the wide sphere of philanthropy which it embraces; or whether we view the present state of its progress under the auspices of this society, and under the obstacles which might have been expected from the cupidity of many, we may discover in each a certain pledge, that the same benignant hand which has made those preparatory arrangements will crown our efforts with success. Having, therefore, these motives of piety to consecrate and strengthen the powerful considerations which a wise policy suggests, we may, I trust, confidently rely upon the liberal exertions of the public for the necessary means of effecting this highly interesting object."

The Secretary, E. B. Caldwell, Esq., then proceeded to read the ANNUAL REPORT of the Board of Managers, as follows:

"The managers of the American Society for colonizing the free people of colour of the United States, in submitting to the Society their first report, are encouraged to persevere in their efforts from an increased confidence as well in its practicability as in its importance. In a plan of such magnitude, involving the happiness of many millions; and the success of which, while it cannot fail to create a general interest, might conflict with established prejudice, circumspection and delicacy become essential to its progress. The first step of the Board of Managers was to present a memorial to Congress at their last session, which, with the report of the committee to whom it was referred is now laid before the society. The nature and novelty of the subject, not less than the mass of business which engaged the deliberations of that body, did not permit them to pursue the report. On the adjournment of Congress the board adopted suitable measures to promote the views of the Society, without waiting the lapse of another session. No efficient and decisive measures could be adopted until it was ascertained where the most suitable situation could be procured on the west coast of Africa, for planting the proposed colony; and although the managers collected much interesting and useful information, and such as gave them great encouragement to proceed, it could not supply the place of that which must be obtained from their own agents upon the spot. It was therefore resolved, shortly after the rising of Congress, to appoint an agent to visit and explore a part of the west coast of Africa. Upon further deliberation, and considering the importance of the mission, the variety of objects to which the attention of a single agent would be directed, the danger of having the main object defeated by the casualties to

which he might be exposed, as well as the importance of concert and co-operation in many difficulties which might occur, it was thought advisable to increase the number to two. The Managers accordingly, after having received the most satisfactory testimony of their zeal, ability, and other qualifications, appointed Mr. Samuel J. Mills and Mr. Ebenezer Burgess, Agents of the society for this purpose. It was supposed that much useful information might be procured in England, and the inquiries of the agents much facilitated by calling there on their way to Africa. The members of the African Institution in England have been for many years engaged in the laudable work of meliorating the condition of the long neglected and much abused Africans, and possess great influence in that country, and particularly in the colony of Sierra Leone. A letter was, therefore addressed by the President to that body, in hopes that the high character of benevolence which characterizes the conductors of that institution, and the similarity of the objects of its pursuits, would lead them cordially to co-operate in the great designs of this Society, and to give our agents all the aid in their power. This letter and the instructions and commissions of the agents, are annexed to this report, for the information of the Society. The agents sailed from this country the middle of November last.

The raising of funds to meet the expenditure necessary for effecting this object, has occupied much of the attention and labours of the Board of Managers: and a still further increase of our resources will be essential to its completion. Nor do we fear that the American community will suffer an object of so much importance, and of so high a character of benevolence, to fail for the want of necessary pecuniary aid. We are happy to state that auxiliary Societies have been formed in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New-York, Virginia, and Ohio, and the Board have received information of the intention of forming other societies in different parts of the country. The extension of these auxiliaries is of the first importance, as it is by their means the public mind must be enlightened on the great important objects of the Society, and it is through them, in some measure, the necessary funds must be drawn for their support. In this prosecution of a plan which was likely to attract the public attention to subjects of deep interest and of great delicacy, it was expected that much jealousy would be excited, and many fears and prejudices would be awakened. Persons acting from the most opposite and contradictory views and principles have been arrayed in opposition to the Society, from a mistaken apprehension of its tendency, as well as of the motives of its members. But, in the midst of its difficulties which jealousy and prejudice have raised to impede our course, we are encouraged by the decided approbation of many of the most intelligent of our fellow-citizens in different parts of the country, among those the most distinguished for whatever is great or good, and by almost all who have taken pains to investigate and examine the subject. The more the public mind becomes informed,

the more decided and general will be its approbation: and we already number among our patrons many whose dispositions were at first neutral, if not unfriendly.

The objectors to the society are generally those who acknowledge the importance and utility of establishing the proposed colony, but suppose it impracticable; and they refer principally, 1st. to the difficulty of procuring a proper situation for the colony. 2d. the supposed repugnance of the colonists. 3d. the expense of emigration. The first objection is assuming a difficulty without proof, and will be best answered by the report of the Agents who have been sent to explore the country. The Managers are enabled at present to state, that, from information derived from various sources, they are persuaded that a situation can be procured in Africa with the approbation, and secured from the hostility of the nations, which will possess such fertility of soil, and salubrity of climate, as to make it an inviting situation to the people of colour in this country.

2. The objection on the part of the coloured people, it is readily seen, springs from first impressions, and is the result of entire ignorance and misapprehension. As these are removed, and their minds are informed upon the subject, the phantom which their alarmed imaginations had conjured up, gradually disappears: and when they learn that the land of their fathers is not cursed by a perpetual and unvarying sterility, nor inhabited by the most sanguinary and ferocious savages, that instinctive principle which binds it to their affections, is soon seen to unfold itself; and though the Managers have learned with surprise and regret that their fears have been awakened in some places, by persons claiming their confidence as their peculiar and avowed defenders and benefactors, they still believe that the diffusion of juster opinions, founded on undoubted facts in relation to the state of things in Africa, and the advantages of a settlement there, will make it very generally if not universally the place of their decided preference. The Managers are the more confirmed in this opinion from their knowledge of the decided approbation of many of the most intelligent among the people of colour to the plan of the society, notwithstanding the alarms which had been created, and the misapprehensions which had been excited, and that many of those who were at first violent in their opposition, have become as decidedly friendly, upon learning the real motives, intentions and objects of the society.

The Managers have ascertained that there are numbers of the highest standing for intelligence and respectability among that class of people, who are decidedly and warmly in favour of the plan, from a conviction that it will, if accomplished, powerfully co-operate in placing the situation of their brethren here and in Africa, in that scale of happiness and respectability among the nations of the earth, from which they have been long degraded. Offers of service have been received from many worthy and influential individuals of their own colour, and from a number of fami-

lies in different parts of the United States, to become the first settlers in the colony, whenever a suitable situation shall be procured. The Managers can with confidence state their belief, that they would have no difficulty in procuring individuals among them worthy of trust and confidence, to explore the country, if necessary, and to plant a colony of sufficient strength to secure its safety and prosperity. This being accomplished, there can be no difficulty in presenting its importance to their brethren, in such a manner and with such unquestionable testimony, as must command their fullest confidence. Without detailing the variety of information received by the Board on this subject, the Managers cannot omit the testimony of capt. Paul Cuffee, so well known in Africa, Europe, and America, for his active and enlarged benevolence, and for his zeal and devotedness to the cause of the people of colour. The opportunities of captain Cuffee, of forming a correct opinion, were superior perhaps to those of any man in America. His judgment was clear and strong, and the warm interest he took in whatever related to the happiness of that class of people is well known. The testimony of such a man is sufficient to outweigh all the unfounded predictions and idle surmises of those opposed to the plan of the society. He had visited twice the coast of Africa, and became well acquainted with the country and its inhabitants. He states that upon his opinion alone, he could have taken to Africa at least two thousand people of colour from Boston and its neighbourhood. In the death of Paul Cuffee the society has lost a most useful advocate, the people of colour a warm and disinterested friend, and society a valuable member. His character alone ought to be sufficient to rescue the people to which he belonged from the unmerited aspersions which have been cast upon them. The plan of the society met with his entire approbation, its success was the subject of his ardent wishes, and the prospect of its usefulness to the native Africans and their descendants, in this country, was the solace of his declining years, and cheered the last moments of his existence.

3d. The objection urged on the score of expenditure in transporting so many persons to Africa, has been arrayed in all the imposing forms of figures and calculations. There is a material error in estimating the expense of removing each individual by the same ratio which may be incurred in the removal of the first colonists, without making any allowance for the thousands that will be enabled to defray their own expenses.

The advantages of the progress of the colony must have been equally overlooked; as it may be expected soon to become sufficiently established and flourishing, to offer immediate employment to those who come among them, and who will be able to work and provide for their own subsistence. In addition to this, much may be expected from the augmented value of the land in proportion to its settlement.

Our western countries present the best comment on this subject. An emigration to Africa will be attended with less expense, and

the emigrants will be exposed to less inconvenience, and to fewer difficulties, when the colony is established, than many of the emigrants to the western country now encounter: and yet we find thousands coming even from remote parts of Europe to the interior of America, without the means and advantages which thousands of people of colour possess in this country, and that they often rise to respectability and independence, and even to wealth.

The Managers cannot pass the occasion without noticing the death of the Reverend Doctor Finley, one of the Vice-Presidents, during the past year. The deep interest which he took in the success of the society, and the zeal he displayed in its formation, are well known to many present. In his last sickness he was much gratified upon receiving information of the progress of the society, and of its prospects of success. It gave consolation and comfort to his last moments. When we view the society in this early stage of its proceedings, as animating the hopes and cheering the prospects of the dying christian who had been engaged in its service; when we view it as consecrated by the prayers of the pious, may we not be led with humble confidence to look to the good hand of an overruling Providence to guide its deliberations? May we not expect that the benedictions of millions yet unborn shall bless its anniversary."

On motion of Mr. Clay, a letter of Thomas Jefferson, late President of the United States, was read, which he understood was in the hands of some one present, and would show that the importance of such an institution had been long since duly appreciated, and had received the approbation of that illustrious individual.

Copy of a letter from Thomas Jefferson, late President of the U. S. to John Lynd.

MONTICELLO, Jan. 21, 1811.

Sir—You have asked my opinion on the proposition of Ann Miffin, to take measures for procuring, on the coast of Africa, an establishment to which the people of colour of these states might, from time to time, be colonized, under the auspices of different governments. Having long ago made up my mind on this subject, I have no hesitation in saying, that I have ever thought that the most desirable measure which could be adopted for gradually drawing off this part of our population. Most advantageous for themselves as well as for us; going from a country possessing all the useful arts, they might be the means of transplanting them among the inhabitants of Africa, and would thus carry back to the country of their origin the seeds of civilization, which might render their sojournment here a blessing, in the end, to that country.

I received, in the last year of my entering into the administration of the general government, a letter from the governor of Virginia, consulting me, at the request of the legislature of the state, on the means of procuring some such asylum to which these people might be occasionally sent.—I proposed to him the establishment of Sierra Leone, in which a private company in England had already colonized a number of negroes, and particularly the fugitives from these states during the revolutionary war; and at the same time suggested, if that could not be obtained, some of the Portuguese possessions in South America as most desirable.

The subsequent legislature approving these ideas, I wrote the ensuing year (1802.) to Mr. King, our minister in London, to endeavor to negotiate with the Sierra Leone company, and induce them to receive such of those people as might be colonized thither. He opened a correspondence with Mr. W—— and Mr Thornton, secretary of the company, on the subject; and in 1803 I received, through Mr. King, the result; which was, that the colony was going on in but a languishing condition; that the funds of the company were likely to fail, as they received no returns of profit to keep them up, that they were then in treaty with the government to take the establishment off their hands; but that in no event, should they be willing to receive more of these people from the United States, as it was that portion of settlers who had gone from the United States, who, by their idleness and turbulence, had kept the settlement in constant danger of dissolution, which could not have been prevented but for the aid of the Maroon negroes, from the West-Indies, who were more industrious and orderly than the others, and supported the authority of the government and its laws.

I think I learned afterwards that the British government had taken the colony into their own hands, and I believe it still exists.

The effort which I made with Portugal to obtain an establishment from them, within their colonies in South America, proved also abortive.

You inquired further, whether I would use my endeavours to procure such an establishment security against violence from other powers, and particularly the French. Certainly I shall be willing to do any thing I can to give it effect and safety.

But I am but a private individual, and could only use endeavours with individuals. Whereas, the national government can address themselves at once to those of Europe to obtain the desired security, and will unquestionably be ready to exert its influence with those nations to effect an object so benevolent in itself, and so important to a great portion of its constituents. Indeed, nothing is more to be wished than that the United States would themselves undertake to make such an establishment on the coast of Africa.

Exclusive of motives of humanity, the commercial advantages to be derived from it might defray all its expenses; but, for this the national mind is not prepared. It may perhaps be doubted whether many of these people would voluntarily consent to such an exchange of situation, and but few of those who are advanced to a certain age in habits of slavery would be capable of governing themselves: this should not, however, discourage the experiment, nor the early trial of it. And propositions should be made with all the prudent caution and attention requisite to reconcile it to the interest, the safety, and prejudice of all parties.

Accept the assurance of my respects and esteem.

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

EXTRACTS

Of the Correspondence of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

(Concluded from page 276.)

5. *From a Catholic Bishop, ———, May 7, 1817.*

I continue to take the warmest interest in all that is doing for the advancement of religion and morality among men; and have often in my closet blessed the disinterested and unwearied exertions of those noble-minded men, who, together with you, reverend and worthy Sir, labour in the great work of promoting the happiness of mankind, and, by disseminating the Holy Scriptures of the New

Testament, spread far and wide that most important declaration of St. Peter, that "there is no other name by which men can be saved, than the name of Jesus of Nazareth."

Fully convinced that mankind in general would be greatly improved in their moral condition, by being refreshed with the pure fountain of everlasting life, I have, not without regret, observed endeavours to throw obstacles in the way of the great work; which I attribute to the blind religious zeal of uncalled for critics, who torture words to a different meaning from that which they actually bear. On the other hand, I have observed, with sincere delight, and ascribe it to a true regard and zeal for religion and morality, that the noble Britons, with unexampled disinterestedness, rouse all the talents of ingenious and learned men, in Germany, to assist in the increasing dissemination of the Book of Books.

I also have endeavoured to do this in my diocese, and feel not the smallest reluctance warmly and impressively to recommend the Holy Scriptures to my Clergy.

But my own sphere of operation, as you well know, is so far circumscribed, that I cannot make use of your generous offer, to its full extent. The small circle of my diocese would perhaps, at present, admit of the disposal of 200 copies in duodecimo, and 25 in large octavo. Should that number prove insufficient, and I should hereafter want more, I shall take the liberty of making free with your proffered generosity. Be however convinced, that I would gladly join your Bible Society, if, in imitation of the laudable and pious example of many worthy men, in and out of the country, such a society had not been established at ———; to which those on the banks of the ——— will attach themselves as filial ones. It is, in fact, very immaterial, by what association, or from what country, Christ is preached to us, if, as St. Paul says, he be but preached to us. In this you will, no doubt, agree with me; and we will proceed, hand in hand, in our endeavours, by the dissemination of his doctrine, to draw many to Christ.

FORMATION OF THE TOBOLSK BIBLE SOCIETY, IN THE CAPITAL OF SIBERIA.

From the Rev. R. Pinkerton.

St. Petersburg, August 22, 1817.

On the 25th of June, a day memorable in the annals of Siberia, the foundation was laid of the Tobolsk Bible Society. The Archbishop and Clergy, together with the chief Governor, and a vast number of the citizens of all classes, being assembled in the Palace of the Archbishop, the Cathedral Priest, Zemlenitsen, addressed the meeting in a speech, of which the following is an extract:

"At length, Siberia, also, though distant in her situation from the imperial throne, yet ever near the heart of the august Monarch who sits upon it, puts her hands, with gladness, to labour in the blessed harvest of the word of God. Already the inhabitants of this city, at the call of the deliverer of kings and of nations, with

sentiments of sacred joy and delight, hearken to the friendly invitation to enter on this course, and stand here prepared to join the multitude of those who, with one heart, and one mind, are pressing towards the mark ; and is not this mark the glory of God, and our salvation ? For out of what source are we to derive right knowledge of that glory which is due unto Him, and of the means of salvation for ourselves, but from the words of God himself ? Let us put upon these words the sure seal of faith, that its light may illumine our hearts. ‘ O Lord ! to whom shall we go ? Thou hast the words of eternal life ! ’ Thus spake one of the genuine disciples of the faith, whose spirit ardently longed to imbibe the doctrine of grace from the mouth of God.

“ The Saviour himself has pronounced those blessed who hear the word of God, and obey it. And the light of God’s word, which is now shedding abroad its animating rays upon all, is destined soon to shed them upon the most distant parts of Siberia also ; in order to enlighten, sanctify, and glorify all those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. Then, these strange tribes who know not the true God, but fall down and worship corruptible gods, graven images, the work of mortal hands, shall be illumined by hearing and reading the word of God : those who were once foolish, shall become wise ; and those who formerly were darkness, shall become light in the Lord. The numerous tribes, on every hand, shall all join in extinguishing the torch of superstition, and overthrowing their abominable idols ; and shall become co-partakers of that faith which comes from God, and brings salvation to man. Doubtless you all, distinguished personages, and respectable citizens, will join in showing examples worthy of your enlightened minds and honourable feelings, by promoting the present most auspicious undertaking in every possible way ; and demonstrate, that Siberia also has its zealous lovers of the word of the true God ; that Siberia also knows how to appreciate the wise laws of the wise legislator of Russia, Alexander the First, by adopting the surest means for disseminating the light of the Gospel of divine grace in every part of Russia ; a work in which they who sow, and they who reap, shall one day rejoice together.”

The regulations of the proposed Institution having been read, the venerable grey-headed Archbishop Ambrosius rose ; and, in the midst of the crowded audience, pronounced the following concise speech :

“ Most respectable meeting, once, the Lord, the Upholder of all things, in his wrath, threatened the children of Israel, for not obeying his commandments, with a famine, not of bread and of water, but of hearing the word of the Lord. The weight of this just indignation, which overtook that people, and draws after it spiritual destruction, has lain even until now on the necks of our own fellow-countrymen. But, in our day, this most gracious and merciful God, moved with compassion at the weakness of man, in the midst of wrath hath remembered mercy ; and as he sent manna to the hungry in the wilderness, so has he sent his life-giving

word unto us, to strengthen weak and famished souls. Now the grace of God abounds towards all men. The Most High has made choice of his anointed servant, our most pious Emperor, to satisfy with heavenly food those in our native land that hunger after salvation. And behold, to our unutterable joy, His Imperial Majesty's will has extended unto us also. He accounts us worthy of being promoters of his paternal designs towards those tribes which inhabit this country, sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, and strangers to the gracious light of the Gospel. How high is our vocation! What unspeakable honour is appointed unto the conscientious promoters of this cause. Let us commence our labours, therefore, beloved, in obedience to the will of our gracious God, and of our Emperor and father. Let us spare neither exertion nor property, in order to bring these our unfortunate brethren who know not the true God, to the knowledge of him, by means of his word; and thereby prove ourselves worthy of the name which we bear—sons of our beloved country, and sons of the Most High."

To this proposal a unanimous consent was heard throughout the whole assembly, the sincerity of which was demonstrated by the liberal subscription on the occasion, amounting to about 6000 rubles. The Archbishop Ambrosius, and the Governor, His Excellency Von Brix, were chosen Vice-Presidents; with a Committee of twelve Directors, a Treasurer, and two Secretaries. A chorus of sacred music sang *Te Deum*; and the assembly was invited to a collation which the Archbishop had prepared for them. The members of the Committee afterwards dined with the Governor, and conversed fully and harmoniously on the important duties to which they had been elected. Thus ended the transactions which distinguished this festival day, and planted a Bible Society in the heart of Siberia.

Extracts from Circular Letters relative to the Baptist Missions in India, printed at Serampore, March, 1817.

Serampore & Calcutta.

On the 1st Lord's-day in this month, was baptized at Serampore, Kanaeelal, a young man of the writer cast, born in Naple.

The journals of the native readers at Calcutta and Serampore contain much of a pleasing nature. These are Ram-prisada, Gorachund, and Mudun at Serampore; Sebuk-rama, Kanta, Nidhirama, and Sisoo-rama at Calcutta.

The journal of Gorachund and Ram-prisada for this month, will afford some idea of the nature of their itineracies. At Vilwaghuree their hearers acknowledged that their words were true. Why then not receive them?—We shall hereafter.—But if you die in the mean time?—We will in the hour of death firmly believe in Christ.—At Matikola some said, We admire your books; they contain nothing but holy words; and if this religion had not come from

the English, all must have embraced it; but though the English were, as well others, "the offspring of God," yet they pay no attention to the rules respecting clean and unclean things. At Vasdevapoorra they read (as they do in many places) the sermon on the mount. Their hearers said, "Certainly Jesus Christ gave most excellent instruction to his disciples." At Sookchur, the people were indisposed to hear, and told the readers, that the brahmuns were their gods, and it was their resolution to mind them. At Majpoora they had an attentive congregation: a Vishnuva said these words are the truth, but nobody can walk according to these severe rules. Our brethren said, "The command will become easy if you believe."—At Kotrunga, the people passed the highest encomiums on the scriptures, but then the misfortune was, that the cast would be lost. But, said the brethren, you will obtain eternal life. Yes, replied these poor feeble creatures—"but nobody will eat with us." At Barrick-poorra, several natives took them into a house, and heard them read, sing and pray, and intreated them to come again. On another occasion they gave away, at a festival, nearly six hundred tracts, many of them the life of Christ in the Orissa language.

Brother Hale, one of our brethren at Dum Dum, thus writes from thence, in a letter dated March 3, "I would hope that yesterday was a day much blessed of the Lord. The army has long been a school of profanity, and, I think Dum Dum has been in a particular manner the synagogue of Satan. It could be nothing less than the compassion of God, to separate a few from among these to seek and to serve him. Not long ago there did not seem any who had the fear of God, or any care about their immortal souls. But here, even in this place, the Lord had raised up a church. We have now, with the three that were baptized yesterday, eleven in communion; and some others, I hope, are seeking salvation. Several who attended at the ordinance of baptism, seemed much affected.

Brother Tarachund thus writes, "The Lord's garden is filled with singing birds, which sing so joyfully the praises of the God of the spring, that the hearts of the hearers are charmed. On this (March 30th,) and the last Lord's day, a boy of the weaver cast, sung hymns to Christ with us, in the presence of his father, who seemed pleased, and listened to the word of God with attention. The same boy with several others, inwardly renounced idolatry. Their conduct both in my presence and absence makes me thankful unto the Lord who works wonderfully among the heathen. I hope to send you the last part of the tract in a little time. I have begun also to translate the pamphlet, entitled, "Come and see how a christian can die." One of the brethren has given me some money to make a larger house for the children, and some wine and candles for the Lord's supper."

Chittagong.

The journal of brother De Bruyn mentions, that on the 2d February he had baptized five Mugs; that on the 16th January, thirty

Mugs and five Burmans had called for books; to the Mugs our young friend Baudry gave fourteen books, and to the Burmans five. On the 12th, twenty-seven Mugs were present and, with the christians, made forty at divine worship. On the 14th, the Mugs at worship acknowledged, that it was great mercy in the God of heaven and earth to bring such poor creatures into the way of the Holy Spirit for their salvation. On the next Lord's-day brother De Bruyn had a raja and many strangers to hear him, making a congregation of sixty persons. The next day he had forty visitors, and the day after twenty-seven. On Lord's day the 26th, he had seventy Mugs from different villages. Choudhoori Changaway, with five of his tenants and a sikdar also called on him. The Choudhoori (i. e. a landholder) has requested to be baptized. At the baptizing, on the 2d February, the spectators were so numerous that they could not number them. Brother De Bruyn has sent a native reader to Khapoon, as the people could not, after their day's labour, go so far as Chittagong for instruction.

HINDOOST' HAN.

Diga.

Dear brother Ward,

Diga, March 7, 1817.

On Saturday morning last, we baptized six persons: four men of His Majesty's 24th, and a man and woman of the artillery. Twelve men and one woman, all of the 24th, now stand proposed, as candidates for baptism; and there are two artillery men who have expressed a wish to be proposed. We have also three or four natives of whom we have hope. We have heard that brother E. Carey is coming up with Capt. Moxon, and we hope to baptize these on their arrival. Our place of worship at Dinapore overflows, and we have resolved upon building a larger place. We obtained Colonel Kelly's leave yesterday morning, and about eight hours after, we had the ground laid out, and the greater part of the posts fixed in the ground, for a place 54 by 33. We have a great number of volunteers from the regiment to work with the carpenters, gramees, &c. and by the end of the ensuing week we hope to have it fit for use. The good men enter into it with all their hearts; and cheerfully contribute their money and labour. I am sure you would be much pleased if you could see them.

I have lately heard a very affecting account of the death of a drunkard. The man was a serjeant-major, and died a few weeks ago. He had been what is called dead drunk, for about two days previous to his death; and on the day of his dissolution, a good man went so see and pray with him; during which he just opened his eyes, and said, "It is all over, I am in hell,"—and gave up the ghost!

I remain, &c. J. ROWE.

Patna.

A continuation of the extracts from brother Thompson's journal.

My dear Mr. Ward,

Joun-poor, Jan. 1, 1817.

I returned to my boat to-day from Bubcha, where I spent nearly two days with a Mr.—He received with thankfulness some

English pamphlets, as did a young man residing with him. One Mirja-Shaheb and two or three others received the word in Hindoost'hanee. A Hindee gospel has also made known the history of our Saviour to a brahmun in a neighbouring village: he has called occasionally on Mr.—. To meet future applications, I left some portions of the scriptures in Hindee, Persian and Hindoost'hanee with this gentleman, who, I have reason to believe, has his heart set upon the prosperity of Zion: he has been twenty years in these parts. Two or three occurrences of a recent date (mentioned by him) I shall just state. The rajpoots of the Rughoovungshee tribe are accustomed to murder their female children as soon as born, (some say owing to their poverty and inability to bestow on them a handsome dowry.) One of these, now living in a village on the banks of the Gomuttee, had a daughter born about twelve years ago, and as usual, the poor creature was neglected for some hours in order to be starved to death; this failing, the remorseless mother gave it some milk of akunda,* and to complete all, took a blunt knife, and cut its throat.—After this, she was thrown out into the uruhura† fields, that she might be devoured by by shackals.—The father, who had been out all night, happened very early to come through the uruhuru fields, and espied the child, but not knowing whose it was, took no notice of it till he went home, and then learning that it was his own daughter that lay thus exposed, he ran to the spot, and found, to his joy, that, the blood having congealed, the babe was alive. He brought her home, and said, “Whom God has kept alive we will not kill. We will nourish her, and bring her up, though we are poor, and have no dowry for her.” As the child grew, she began to excite the curiosity of all her tribe, being the only female kept alive: many presents were made by her father's friends, and he was thereby enabled to marry her. She is still alive.

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**EXTRACT from the FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT of the BATH
SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION, (England.)**

THE committee most sincerely congratulate all those friends who have at heart the good of the rising generation, on the formation of whose moral character so much of the future happiness of society and of the world must inevitably depend; they cannot but congratulate all the friends and benefactors of poor children, that so many Sunday Schools and Sunday School Unions have been formed, and are forming, in our own immediate neighbourhood and elsewhere, for the purpose of implanting the seed of divine instruction in the infant mind.

It appears, by the Report, that there are 57 Schools connected with this Union, containing 4453 Scholars.

It is with great satisfaction of mind that your committee can take a retrospective view of the labours of the four years which have elapsed since the establishment of the Bath Sunday School Union.

* *Aselepias gigantea*.

† *Cytisus Cajan*.

Your committee would just mention the immense benefits which the scholars have derived from the encouragement held out to them, particularly in Bath and the neighbouring villages, to husband their pence and halfpence in order to subscribe for Bibles and Testaments, whereby hundreds and thousands of those holy books have found their way into villages and hamlets, and into houses and cottages, where they had never been seen or read before. These kinds of subscriptions for purchasing books for enriching the mind, and others which have been encouraged for purchasing clothes to cover the naked, have inculcated habits of economy, order, and decency, among the children of the lower orders who attend the schools, which were never witnessed before the establishment of the Bath Sunday School Union; and a knowledge of which circumstances cannot fail to recommend this, and all other similar societies, to every lover of order, to every benevolent and patriotic mind.

THE SAVANNAH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

This Institution was formed on the 8th January, 1818. Its object is to send Missionaries to such parts of the State of Georgia as are destitute of the regular administration of the ordinances of religion; to aid in the means employed by Christians for the conversion of the heathen; and conscientiously to exert itself to extend the Gospel of the Redeemer.

The officers chosen for the present year, are—

Rev. Dr. H. Kollock, *President*; Mr. Charles W. Carpenter, *1st Vice President*; Mr. Benjamin Burroughs, *2d. Vice-President*; Mr. Ebenezer S. Rees, *Treasurer*; Mr. L. Mason, *Secretary*; Messrs. Josiah Penfield, John Carr, Edward Coppee, Nathaniel Lewis, and John Hunter, *Directors*.

ADDRESS OF THE SAVANNAH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

A spirit has gone forth through the whole christian world, which has excited the wonder of the enemies of religion, and the joy of its friends. In a degree unprecedented in former ages, institutions have been established throughout christendom, for enlightening the ignorant, for reforming the vicious, for diffusing the knowledge of the holy scriptures, and for extending the religion of the Redeemer. All denominations of christians, and all ranks of society, have, with holy emulation, concurred in these benevolent designs. The Bible and Tract societies, the free and Sunday schools, which we have established, prove that we have not been inattentive to the aspect of providence, and that we have caught some of the spirit that is felt throughout the civilized world.—But a Missionary society has hitherto been wanting among us. The destitute condition with respect to spiritual advantages of so many parts of our state, the sad situation of the uninstructed Indians, the wretchedness of the heathen world, imperiously require us to unite with the ten thousands of our brethren throughout the world, who are ac-

tively engaged in promoting the success of missions, and who feel that an attention to them is obligatory upon us, and one of the sacred duties of the christian life. We thank God for the readiness and cordiality with which so many came forward to become members of such a society so soon as it was proposed to them;—and we too well know the inhabitants of Savannah to doubt for a moment that the list of subscribers will be large and respectable. Who among us will forego the exalted privilege of assisting in the conversion of the world;—of uniting with the whole of the church militant now upon earth, in preparing the way for the millennial and triumphant church of the Redeemer?

The SAVANNAH MISSIONARY SOCIETY would also most affectionately entreat those throughout the state who are friends to the Saviour and to human happiness, to establish similar societies—While in every part of the northern states such institutions are to be found, shall they be wanting among ourselves? Favoured as we are by divine providence, let us show the world that we are not ungrateful for the mercies of God, not insensible of our obligations to the Redeemer, not unmoved by the situation of those who are “perishing for lack of vision.” This society confidently indulges the hope that it will soon hear of the formation of many others, having the same benevolent objects which it proposes to itself.

A *Missionary Society*, auxiliary to the “*United Foreign Missionary Society*,” was established at Salem, in Washington County, on the 5th inst. The Hon. EDWARD SAVAGE was chosen President, and the Rev. Dr. ALEXANDER PROUDFIT Corresponding Secretary for the ensuing year.

HYMN,

Written for the Children of a SUNDAY SCHOOL in England.

OH thou who sitt'st enthron'd on high,
Ancient of days! Eternal king!

May childhood and mortality

Hope thou will listen while they sing?

We raise our songs, but Oh! to thee

What praise can mortal tongue impart.

'Till thou hast tun'd to harmony,

That jarring instrument—the heart.

Then infant warblings in thy ear,

As sweet as angel notes will roll;

For thou wilt bend from heaven to hear

The humble breathings of the soul.

Oh! teach us some celestial song,

Some note of high and holy joy,

And that shall dwell upon the tongue,

And that shall all the soul employ.

Then time shall hear, while time is ours.

The song of praise we pour to thee;

And heaven shall lend us nobler powers,

To sound it thro' eternity.